

Americans for the victims of the Hurricane Floyd flooding.

It goes without saying that I am deeply grateful for the countless public servants and concerned neighbors who have been and still are working around the clock to extend heroic efforts and helping hands to the thousands of Eastern North Carolina people who have lost everything they possess—except their courage, and their determination to rise above the hardship that befell them.

Mr. President, before I go further I am compelled to convey publicly my personal gratitude to FEMA Director James Lee Witt and his remarkable associates for their dedication to helping those in such dire need. No federal agency could possibly be more efficient in carrying out its mission, and Director Witt deserves enormous credit for the incredible responsiveness FEMA has demonstrated on so many occasions when disasters have befallen many other areas of America.

Also, I am deeply grateful to my colleagues, who have responded to this disaster not merely with kind condolences and genuine sympathy, but also with their actions. For example, the senior Senator from Missouri, Senator BOND, made every effort to assure that FEMA is adequately funded to do the job in North Carolina. The Senate Leadership on both sides of the aisle—particularly Senator LOTT—have been gracious in their offers of assistance.

Many in the administrative branch are also going out of the way to be helpful. Yesterday, Customs Service Administrator Raymond Kelly granted my request to administratively waive certain maritime regulations, thereby allowing grain and feed shipments to reach flood-ravaged farmers more quickly. I am genuinely appreciative of his swift action.

And Mr. President, let there be no mistake: Eastern North Carolina needs all the help it can get. I do not exaggerate when I say that the flooding is of near-Biblical proportions. At least 45 people have lost their lives; there are fears of finding even more bodies as the flood waters recede. Entire communities have been washed away. Standing flood waters are becoming more polluted each day by gasoline, chemicals, animal waste and drowned livestock. An estimated 1,000 roads have been flooded, and countless houses have been damaged, some beyond repair. Perhaps the most poignant stories are those of cemeteries washing away, with coffins rising to the surface.

It is a devastating regional problem, Mr. President, but more than that, it is truly a national problem affecting every state in the Union. Because the communities affected by this flooding—whether they be Wilson or Greenville, Rocky Mount or Goldsboro, Kinston or Tarboro—are communities that are essential to American agriculture.

The heart of the agriculture community in North Carolina has been virtually destroyed by this storm, Mr. President. And as concerned as we are for the countless citizens who have lost their homes and their possessions, the agricultural implications of this disaster for our entire country are enormous.

Here's why: North Carolina ranks third in total agricultural income, behind only California and Iowa. Numerous commodities will be radically affected by the flooding because North Carolina ranks in the top ten states of production for such a wide variety of products: turkeys, sweet potatoes, hogs, cucumbers for pickles, peanuts, poultry and egg products, chickens, blueberries, peanuts, strawberries, cotton, catfish, pecans, watermelons, peaches, tomatoes.

In short, Mr. President, North Carolina agricultural production is inseparable from U.S. agricultural production, and this regional disaster is in fact a national disaster. And I highlight this not to insist upon a government response—though one is needed—but to underscore the inescapable fact that the private sector must play a key role in helping Eastern North Carolina recover from this disaster.

The federal government can do its share to meet the needs of those who have been affected by the flood—and I will work to make sure the federal government plays a substantial role in assisting in the recovery. (In fact, those who are being helped by FEMA know that the federal government is already doing its part to lend a helping hand.) But government cannot do it all, Mr. President. The private sector must play an enormous role in rebuilding the communities and economy of my home state. And this will be an historic test of the strength and purpose of the free enterprise system—and of all of us who believe that the strength of America is the willingness to stand up for each other in times of hardship.

North Carolinians understand this fact instinctively, Mr. President. Already, private citizens and businesses from all over the state are volunteering their time and money to help their neighbors. May I offer a few examples:

Carolina Power & Light, a wonderfully civic-minded electrical company, has promised to match citizens' donations to the Red Cross up to \$100,000 and is double-matching its employee's contributions. Capitol Broadcasting in Raleigh has donated \$100,000.

From the financial industry, Bank of America has donated \$150,000. First Union is contributing the same generous amount to the Red Cross and is also pitching in with in-kind contributions of ice and water. First Citizens Bank has donated \$100,000 and has already developed a short-term emergency loan program.

The tobacco industry, which is so important to Eastern North Carolina—and which, incidentally, is now facing another spiteful attack by the Justice Department—has been especially generous. RJ Reynolds has donated \$250,000; Philip Morris has donated \$50,000 in addition to the food products they are donating through Kraft. US Tobacco has given an additional \$25,000.

And, of course, I have been in contact almost daily with Franklin GRAHAM, son of the remarkable Billy GRAHAM, who operates a truly wonderful organization called Samaritan's Purse, which distributes food, clothing and medical supplies to people who are suffering all over the world. Franklin and his associates have once again demonstrated their usual selflessness by sending truckloads of potable water and other needed supplies to the areas in greatest need.

All of this generosity does not include the generous contributions of individual North Carolinians that are pouring in, Mr. President. Our fine Governor, Jim Hunt, has set up a Disaster Relief Fund for contributions to the United Way, and the contributions are coming in so fast that they have yet to be counted. I am continually amazed and highly gratified by the thoughtfulness of North Carolinians who genuinely want to help those in distress.

Mr. President, neither government nor the private sector alone can help rebuild the communities of North Carolina. If ever there was a time in North Carolina's history when all of our institutions—public and private—must work together, that time is now. And I pledge to do my part to make sure that individuals, businesses and government are working together to help North Carolina recover from the worst disaster in its history.

PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE REPUBLICAN TAX CUT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about President Clinton's veto of the Republican-sponsored \$792 billion tax cut. I commend the President for vetoing this bill because it would have taken us down the wrong path:

The path to huge budget deficits;
The path to higher interest rates; and
The path that fails to protect Medicare and Social Security;

In vetoing this bill, the President has taken us down the fiscally responsible path toward:

Paying down the \$5.7 trillion national debt;

Lowering interest rates and continuing our economic growth; and

Protecting Medicare and Social Security in anticipation of the baby boom generation.

Republicans claim the projected surplus over the next ten years is large

enough to give taxpayers a \$792 billion tax cut and still make \$500 billion worth of investments in domestic priorities.

They claim that there is an estimated \$1.4 trillion worth of surplus funds available for tax breaks and whatever else needs attention.

But their surplus projection is based on a fantastic, unrealistic, and unwise assumption about domestic discretionary spending: It is based on the assumption that Congress will enact drastic cuts in domestic services over the next ten years.

The New Republican Baseline is the amount of Total Discretionary Spending over the next ten years as figured by the Congressional Budget Office at the request of Senator DOMENICI. It is the level of spending that Senator DOMENICI said on the Senate floor on July 29, 1999 would allow for the Republican tax cut and \$505 billion to be added back. It was also posted on the Budget Committee Website.

This proposal assumes that Congress will cut discretionary spending in accord with the budget caps through 2002 and then freeze discretionary spending at 2002 levels for the years 2003 through 2009.

In other words, while the price of a home, car, food goes up; while the cost of health care and tuition go up, the level of domestic services such as Head Start, student loans and economic development grants remains frozen in nominal dollars.

A freeze in nominal dollars means a decrease in real dollars. So the Republicans are proposing real, severe cuts in domestic services in order to make their tax cut seem feasible.

Huge cuts—tens of billions of dollars below current 1999 levels—are totally unrealistic (and a bad idea).

This chart shows that the Republican proposed reductions in domestic services defy history.

This chart shows the trend in domestic discretionary services over the last 15 years (in terms of actual outlays) in real 1999 dollars.

The trend—(regardless of whether Democrats or Republicans controlled Congress) is upward—and sharply upward over the last ten years—during a period of serious efforts to reign in spending.

Looking forward, the trend (on which the Republican tax cut and proposed investments in domestic priorities are based) is sharply downward with domestic services slashed by over a third by the year 2009.

A reversal in domestic discretionary services of this size just won't happen—and it shouldn't happen—we shouldn't slash head start, and Pell grants, and community development block grants, and safe drinking water programs by tens of billions of dollars over the next ten years. And history tells us we won't.

The current budget process tells us we won't: Newspaper editorials across the country are chiding Congress for already having spent next year's surplus.

I support the President's veto because it recognizes our collective responsibility to get America's fiscal house in order and because the Republican tax cut plan and the assumptions that underlie it are unwise, unrealistic and would have squandered this historic opportunity.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the chart to which I referred.

There being no objection, the chart was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

DOMESTIC DISCRETIONARY SPENDING: PROPOSED REPUBLICAN PLAN COMPARED TO 15 YEAR HISTORY IN CONSTANT DOLLARS

[Outlays in billions, constant 1999 dollars]

Year	Dollars
1984	227
1989	235
1994	282
1999	307
2004	226
2009	195

Source: CBO. Projection assumes Domestic Discretionary Spending for FY 2000–2009 = \$2.968 trillion: the level of the New Republican Total Discretionary Spending Baseline (\$5.707 trillion over ten years), minus Defense Discretionary Spending at the Budget Resolution level (\$3.062 trillion over ten years). Figures do not add to totals due to rounding.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL FUND

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Massachusetts for offering this amendment. I am a co-sponsor of the amendment. The Montreal Protocol has always enjoyed broad bipartisan support in the Congress and public support across the country.

As our colleagues will remember, it was President Reagan who negotiated and signed the Protocol in 1987. Since that time, many strengthening amendments have been adopted and ratified during the administrations of both President Bush and President Clinton.

One of the most effective provisions of the protocol is an international fund that provides assistance to developing nations to aid their phaseout of ozone depleting substances. This is not a U.S. aid program. It is an international fund supported by 35 countries. It has assisted projects to reduce ozone use in 120 developing countries.

Mr. President, I can tell the Senate that the Montreal Protocol Fund is a very cost effective program because the U.S. General Accounting Office audited the program in 1997 and gave it high praise. GAO had only one recommendation to make to improve its performance and that recommendation has since been implemented. I would note that the U.S. business community also strongly supports this program. Quite often the assistance provided by the fund is used by developing nations to buy our technology to reduce CFC

use. So, there is no question that this program works and has been highly successful.

The only issue is whether there is room for the U.S. contribution in this budget. We have pledged approximately \$39 million for this coming year. There is \$27 million in the Foreign Operations appropriation. Which means that we need an additional \$12 million to honor our commitment. The amendment by the Senator from Massachusetts would provide that \$12 million from EPA's budget. This follows a long tradition of paying for part of our contribution from State Department funds and part of our contribution through the EPA budget.

Can EPA afford \$12 million for this purpose. We know that the budget is tight this year. But it is not so tight that we need to entirely eliminate this expenditure. In fact, I would note that this bill provides EPA \$116 million more than the President requested. As the Senator from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI, has said many times here on the floor, this bill is still a work in progress. I am confident that the very able managers of the bill can find room for the Montreal Protocol Fund in a budget for EPA that provides \$116 million more than the President's request for the coming year.

We have our differences here in the Senate over environmental policy. But everyone has to admit that the international program to protect the stratospheric ozone layer negotiated by President Reagan has been a tremendous success. The work is not quite done. CFCs are not entirely out of our economy. In fact, the U.S. remains the third largest user of CFCs. But we are well on the way to a CFC-free world. And this program, the Montreal Protocol Fund, has been a very important part of the effort. It deserves our continued support.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, September 23, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,638,477,894,300.66 (Five trillion, six hundred thirty-eight billion, four hundred seventy-seven million, eight hundred ninety-four thousand, three hundred dollars and sixty-six cents).

One year ago, September 23, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,517,883,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred seventeen billion, eight hundred eighty-three million).

Five years ago, September 23, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,667,471,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred sixty-seven billion, four hundred seventy-one million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 23, 1974, the Federal debt stood at \$480,719,000,000 (Four hundred eighty billion, seven hundred nineteen million) which reflects a debt increase of